

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
Monday, August 14, 2017, 1:00 PM
FMH Crestwood, 2nd Floor
7211 Bank Court, Frederick, MD

COA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Elizabeth Chung	Monica Grant	M.C. Keegan-Ayer		Jeannette Bartelt
Marcy Gouge	Sue Ramsburg	Randy McClement, Mayor		Mary Beachley
Cindy Kokoski	Carolyn True	Ann McDermott		Judy Kendro
Tom Lawler		Leslie Schultz		Geoff Littrell
Dianne Lewis				Annie Lewis
Thea Uhlig-Ruff				Veronica Lowe
Sandra Wastler				

- I. Call to Order** – Dianne Lewis called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. Welcome & Introductions** – Dianne welcomed all attendees. She gave a brief description of the Commission and its goals. Commission members around the table introduced themselves. Members of the audience were invited to introduce themselves. Dianne acknowledged resigning member; Marie Reeves. Although not present, Dianne thanked Marie for her time, efforts, and dedication to the seniors of Frederick County. Marie has taken an

employment opportunity which will not allow her to attend the monthly Commission meetings.

- III. **Action on the Agenda** – Dianne took a few moments to talk to Commission members about the recent Open Meeting Act training that was held in July. She thanked members who attended that training and expressed the need for more members to complete the on-line training and receive a certificate of completion. The training held in July was not sufficient to meet the certification requirements for the Open Meeting Act. The web-site link is provided on the agenda today. Effective October 1, 2017 all subcommittee meetings held will require one member hold a certificate of completion. Additionally, in a closed meeting one member (non-staff) in the meeting must have received a certificate of completion.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the June 12th meeting were approved as written. Dianne made a motion to approve the minutes. Marcy seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- V. **Wags of Hope, Kelly Bongard** – The Commission was not able to confirm this presentation prior to today's meeting. Sandi Wastler will make sure to confirm the presenter for next month's meeting and will contact Kelly to see if her presentation can be rescheduled.

Financial Assistance Application, Carolyn True – Carolyn distributed copies of a draft Financial Assistance Application. This application is for individuals who may have difficulty paying for fitness programs at any of the County Senior Centers. The eligibility criteria are listed on the back of the application. This subsidy can be used for session classes only; Chair Yoga, Zumba, and Tai Chi. There would be a fund of \$5,000 per year to be used for this subsidy. Carolyn thanked the Commission for their input on this effort. The subsidy would be shared with individuals through the Senior Centers and would be on the County web-site and Department newsletter. At this point, it will be a slow-growth program to see how it is utilized without being overwhelmed by needs. It will start with clients who are currently registered participants in the Centers. Staff will review the applications. Each applicant must provide a minimum of \$10.00 towards the cost of the program. There will be stipulations put in place to avoid abuse of the subsidy. This will be a work in progress and adjustments may be needed (and implemented) as time goes.

Carolyn spoke about 2018 Legislative Considerations. County Executive sent her a note as the staff liaison for the Commission asking for ideas/suggestions for Frederick Legislative Package for the 2018 General Assembly session. The deadline for suggestions is August 25th. All suggestions will be reviewed and considered at a

public meeting in October before specific bills are drafted. The suggestions will go to Roger Wilson, Director of Government Affairs. The Commission will pull together suggestions and then forward them to Carolyn. Carolyn's one suggestion was to include a look at the law that manages the PACE/Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. Currently there is only one such program allowed in Maryland and it is at John Hopkins; perhaps the State could look into ways to expand the program into other parts of the state. Dianne stated that Delegate Carol Krimm has done some work on this process and suggested a conversation with her. Tom asked if there were any other priorities for legislation as far as the Department goes. The State Dept. of Aging handles Department needs/priorities.

There was some discussion about budget standing and how it relates to what is being implemented with the Seniors First Report. Carolyn stated that there are many groups/committees working on the Report's suggestions/initiatives. There is much work that needs to be done in these workgroups before any decisions can be made that will effect change. Some grants funds cannot be manipulated in a way that may be beneficial for the workload due to restrictions on the way the funds can be used. There is a considerable amount of time and effort that goes into putting the Department budget together. There is a specific process that has to be followed when putting the budget together.

Currently there is a lot of work being done on the Senior First report sub-committees, but the planning portion of this process is going to be the longest task. The co-location subcommittee is working on virtual co-location as well as physical. Carolyn is investigating state funding that may be able to assist. There is work being done to determine what specifically the needs are so that future changes can be efficient and effective. There is exploration being done to determine how to collect data that is cohesive and inclusive. There was a recent discussion on MoW and how to recruit new volunteers effectively or review different options for food delivery. Systems need to be planned and put in place so that changes are successful. Access to some of the financial staff in the County has been limited due to the new financial system (Infor) the County implemented earlier this year. Dianne asked about the MoW report that the Commission had received in the past. Carolyn will send it out via email.

VI. Committee Reports

Business Task Force – Tom Lawler – Tom stated that this task force continues to work on two specific initiatives; caregiving information for employers and job search assistance for seniors. At the August meeting some changes were suggested for the

Caregiving video this committee has created. There may be different versions of the video created. The goal is for employers to understand caregiving hardships. The committee hopes to rollout the video at the Elder Expo in October. Kelli Ackiewicz with FCC's Institute for Learning in Retirement is designing a program at FCC named Retire, Rewire, and Reinvent to help seniors wishing to return to the workforce. This is planned for the Spring 2018 school semester. Marcy stated that the AARP has great job resources for seniors. Tom stated the group has reached out Frederick County Workforce Services to avoid duplication of services. The AARP President will be presenting at next month's Commission meeting. Sandi Wastler will reach out to the President of AARP to ask that she could discuss employment opportunities for seniors.

Nominating – Tom Lawler – Tom stated that this committee recently held two interviews. There are currently six vacancies on the Commission. The Committee unanimously recommends Marva Younger and Lori Stup be appointed to the Commission. Tom made a motion to approve. Sandi seconded the motion. All were in favor. The names will be forwarded to County Executive Gardner for approval. Tom stated that advertising for new members will be on September 1st. All advertising needs to go through Joyce Grossnickle at jgrossnickle@frederickcountymd.gov. Dianne stated that Tom is now the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Communication– Sandi Wastler – Sandi stated that the CoA Facebook page is up and running. There is still a goal to get out into the community and do presentations and six to eight have been done this year. She has reached out to all the contacts on the email database which she has created. She did get some replies of interest. Commission members should let Sandy know if they are interested in doing a presentation. She distributed the database to see if they are aware of any changes which need to be made or errors on the list. She also brought copies of the Powerpoint presentation for members to review. She also provided a comment form which will be available at the presentations for feedback. The Caregiver Conference and the Elder Expo are coming up and Commission members are needed to staff the table. She asked for ideas of information/resources to have available for those events. She would like to have copies of the meeting schedule and information about becoming a Commission member. She is working on the 2018 meeting schedule. The senior center location meetings will be more evenly distributed throughout the year. The new Citizen Services Division building may be an option. There was some discussion on topics and locations for next year. Elizabeth offered to help with data analysis collected by this Committee.

8/14/17

- VII. Public Comment –** Judy Kendro spoke today and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to attend the meetings. She also thanked the Department of Aging. She likes to go there and participate in the activities and wishes more people could enjoy these activities. Her main concern continues to be the lack of affordable housing options in the middle class range. She attended a downsizing workshop and spoke with some folks there. One person she talked with gave up. Some people are just stuck where they are living even if it doesn't accommodate their financial/physical needs. The senior population is growing and their housing options need to expand as well.

Jeannette Bartelt is a city resident and she has been advocating for tiny house developments in the area in/around Frederick City.

Dianne stated that this is a topic which is crucial and current. She suggested that individuals should make an effort to attend relevant planning and County meetings. The best way to make a difference is to have a voice. Monica offered to give Dianne contact information for Bruce Zavros who is the chair of the Affordable Housing Council. That group is planning assisting with a meeting with builders to find out what incentives would help with this type of housing. This will be held by the Community Foundation.

- VIII. Announcements –** Dianne reminded Commission members of the need to take the on-line Open Meeting Act training and obtain their certification. She also stated that all individuals who want to make public comment must sign in and indicate their intent. Anyone who needs special accommodations because of a disability or language barrier must contact the Dept. of Aging or dial 711 for Maryland Relay to make arrangements no later than 3 working days prior to the meeting.

Tom announced that the Business Task Force next meeting will be held at Winchester Hall in the third floor conference room.

- IX. Adjournment -** Dianne thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary